

The Western Australian Audit of
Surgical Mortality (WAASM)

2026 Report Snapshot

5-year review

Jan 2021 - Dec 2025

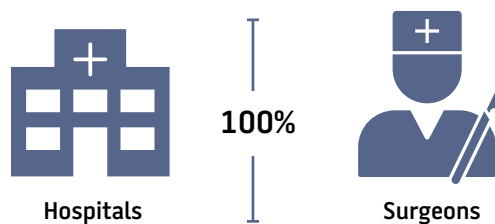


Snapshot

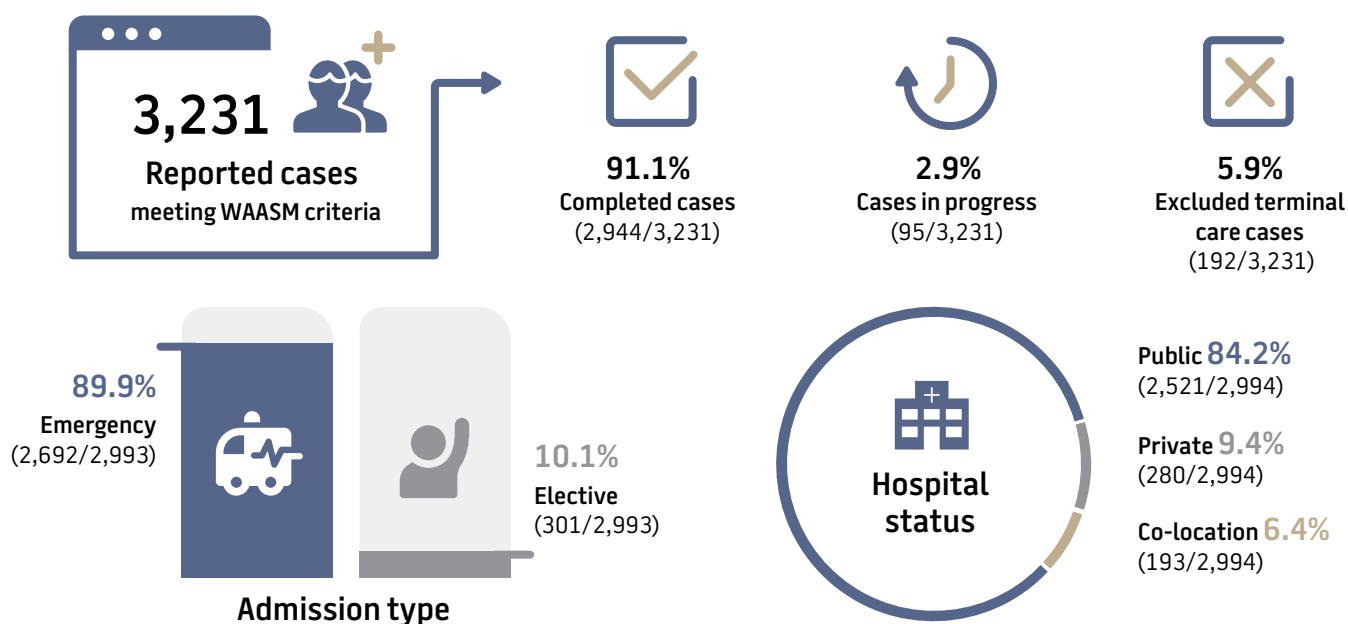
This snapshot covers cases reported to WAASM from **1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025**.

Note that differences in denominators are due to missing data arising from incomplete information provided in surgical case forms and assessment forms.

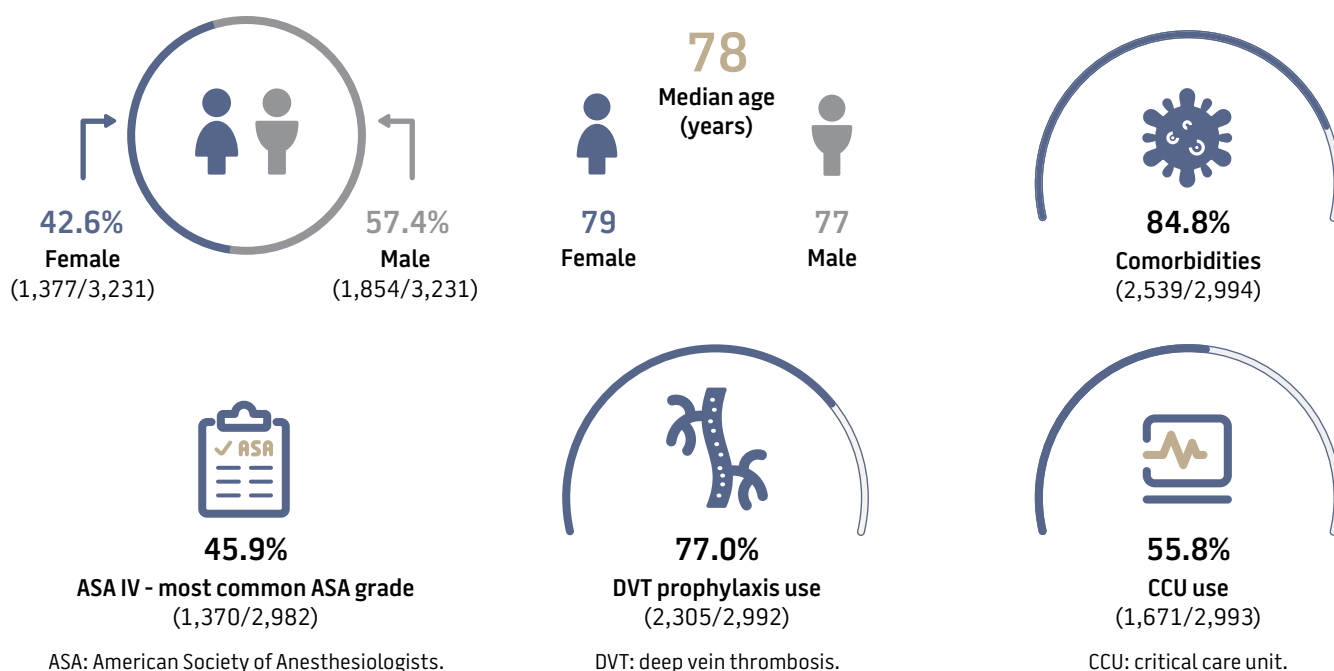
Participation



Analysis and audit numbers



Risk profile



Patient transfers



30.1%
Patients transferred
(902/2,994)



11.3%
Delay in transfer
(102/899)



4.6%
Inappropriate transfer
(41/899)



3.5%
Insufficient clinical
information
(31/898)



1.7%
Inappropriate level
of care
(15/898)

Operations



59.9%
Patients with one or
more operations
(1,793/2,993)



2,334
Number of
operations



91.3%
Consultant surgeons made
the decision to operate
(2,132/2,334)

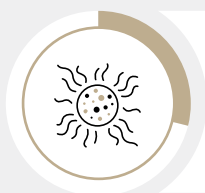


67.9%
Consultant surgeons
performed the surgery
(1,584/2,334)



13.8%
Unplanned returns
to theatre
(247/1,793)

Infection



31.3%
Patients with clinically
significant infection
(935/2,992)



54.2%
Infection acquired
prior to admission
(507/935)



45.8%
Infection acquired
during admission
(428/935)



26.2%
Infection acquired
preoperatively
(112/427)



54.8%
Infection acquired
postoperatively
(234/427)

Peer-review outcomes



13.6%
Cases with one or more
clinical management
issues (399/2,944)



620
Number of clinical
management issues



12.3%
Adverse events
(76/620)



44.7%
Adverse events that
caused death
(34/76)



32.4%
Definitely preventable
adverse events that
caused death (11/34)



Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Western Australian Audit of Surgical Mortality

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ACN 004 167 766 | NZCN 6235298

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